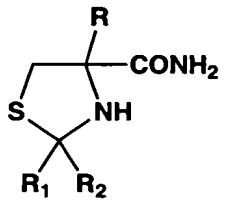
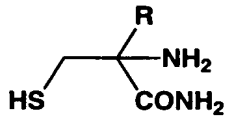
ABSTRACT

A process for producing a 2-alkylcysteinamide, which comprises hydrolysis of a 4-alkylthiazolidine-4-carboxamide represented by the general formula (2) or a salt thereof:



...(2)

wherein R represents a lower alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms; and each of R_1 and R_2 independently represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms, or R_1 and R_2 are linked together to form an alicyclic structure having 4-7 carbon atoms, excluding the case where both R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen,
to give a 2-alkylcysteinamide represented by the general formula (1) or a salt thereof



...(1)

wherein R represents a lower alkyl group having 1-4 carbon atoms.

Cells of a microorganism or treated products thereof having activity of stereoselective hydrolysis of a 2-alkyl-L-cysteinamide are allowed to act on the compound represented by the general formula (1) to yield a 2-alkyl-L-cysteine.